

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
October 14, 2008  
7:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING**

**PRESENT:**           **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.  
COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH  
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH  
MAYOR GRAHAM**

**ALSO PRESENT:**   **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU**

**Presentation – J. B. Wise Parking Lot – Preliminary Design by City Planner Christine Hoffman**

Mrs. Hoffman presented to Council the draft design of the J. B. Wise Parking Lot. She noted that the public has had a chance to see the design and offer feedback.

Council Member Clough asked what sanitary sewers flow through that area.

Kurt Hauk, City Engineer, said that the sanitary sewers flow out of the buildings along the J. B. Wise parking lot.

Mrs. Hoffman also noted the preliminary design drawings for the covered walkway and told Council that there is some debate as to whether they will be connected all the way or have openings in between sections.

Mayor Graham replied that it would make more sense to have them connected. He also asked when construction is scheduled to begin.

Mrs. Hoffman said it will be sent out to bid in March of 2009 with construction to begin in May.

Council Member Clough asked if more lights were going to be added around the square.

Mrs. Corriveau said that additional lighting has been added starting on the southeast side of public square.

Council Member Smith asked what portion of this project is funded by grant money.

Mrs. Hoffman replied that grant money amounts to \$830,000.

**Reports –**

Heath Insurance Third Party Administrator and Pharmacy Benefit Manager- Health Insurance Committee

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that members of the Health Insurance Committee are present this evening. She said that the committee issued RFPs to 15 companies.

Council Member Clough asked why there was such a big difference in the current ProAct fee versus what is being offered in the new proposal.

Bonnie Robbe, former Deputy City Comptroller, replied that she is not sure why the price went down in the last eight years but suggested that more competition may have played a role.

Council Member Butler asked about the length of the term.

Mrs. Robbe said the ProAct rate is guaranteed for three years.

Council Member Clough asked if the committee has figures for more than one company.

Mrs. Robbe said they have information from all the companies and noted there were a lot of extras in their offers.

Council Member Smith asked if POMCO came back with a package, but other companies came back with a base and then had extra or additional charges.

Mrs. Robbe agreed saying that other companies were charging for extra services that POMCO had included in their base price.

Council Member Clough asked if the increase of \$4594.00 is for each employee.

Mrs. Robbe said that the increase was one increase which covers all employees.

Council, staff and the committee continued to discuss this topic.

Mrs. Corriveau wished to publicly recognize this committee for all of the work and time they put into reviewing the insurance information.

Mayor Graham reiterated what Mrs. Corriveau said.

Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan – Bryan White, Confidential Assistant to the City Manager

Mr. White presented to Council the City's first hazard plan and reviewed the cover sheet with them. He added that what this is meant to do is act as a guideline to track a disaster from onset to recovery.

Mayor Graham noted that it is good to stay focused in case of emergencies.

Fire Chief Dan Gaumont said this is a dynamic document that will be changing, department by department.

Council Member Butler asked if drills will be taking place.

Mr. White said that the City police and fire departments will conduct drills and have already done two.

Council Member Smith questioned whether or not the City will have to purchase new equipment in order to carry out any of the disaster plans.

Mr. White stated that there is not one thing the City has to buy in order to follow this document as it is knowledge and command based manual.

Mrs. Corriveau mentioned that vests and standard forms were purchased but nothing additional is needed. She also offered special thanks to Chief Gaumont and Mr. White for all the time and effort they put into putting this document together.

Council Member Butler asked if this will be updated as needed.

Mr. White said it will be updated online as well as for hard copy.

#### Industrial Pretreatment Program Changes

Mrs. Corriveau told Council this was an informative report and that a public notice is ready to be sent out. She added that she wanted Council to be aware of it before it is printed and that there will be a local law to formally amend the Sewer Use Law.

#### New York Main Street Grant – Kenneth A. Mix, Planning & Community Development Coordinator

Mr. Mix addressed Council saying that grant funding is now available and that the goal is to expand the grant program beyond what is currently eligible. He mentioned that there is no anchor project yet and that the application is due by November 13, 2008.

Council and staff discussed the Program and Activity Description portion of the report which includes Building Renovation, Downtown Anchors and Streetscape Enhancement.

Council Member Clough stated that the City has already spent millions of dollars on public square and hopes to see funds being used to enhance and renovate other portions of the City surrounding downtown.

Mrs. Hoffman told Council that an area has to be defined for the grant to cover.

Council Member Butler asked if the whole City could be defined.

Mrs. Hoffman said that is too big and a boundary has to be drawn and justified. She noted that the funds have to be spent in the area defined in the grant application. Mrs. Hoffman asked Council what area they would like to focus on.

Council Member Clough expressed his wish to move any projects to areas outside of the square.

Mayor Graham noted that the City needs to be cognizant of which building owners want to participate in this grant program.

Mr. Mix told Council that he is confident this will be funded.

#### EPA Brownfield Grant – Kenneth Mix

Mr. Mix told Council that grants are available for cleaning up Brownfields and the Ogilvie site came to mind. He mentioned that it has some petroleum on it but that cleaning it up would get it ready for a new use. The grant would provide money up to \$200,000, but the City would need to match 20% of the awarded funds, he said.

Council Member Smith asked if the grants are earmarked for the Ogilvie site.

Mr. Mix said that is what staff recommends.

Council and staff discuss testing and removing contamination at this and other sites in the City.

Mayor Graham commented that the Ogilvie site should be on the application.

#### Public Square Gazebo – Kenneth Mix

Mayor Graham stated that the consensus of Council is to use the red cedar.

Mrs. Corriveau said the footprint for the gazebo is fifteen feet, but is unsure if that measurement is from the overhang or from post to post. She added that the gazebo will be assembled and that it is more prudent to not have a raised floor therefore there is no need for a ramp.

Council Member Clough asked about the decision to have red cedar over pressure treated wood.

Mrs. Corriveau said that red cedar will last much longer.

Mayor Graham told staff to go ahead and order the gazebo.

#### New York Power Authority – Facility Audit Agreement – Bryan L. White

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that staff spoke with a representative from the Power Authority and noted there are some things that will be reviewed.

Council Member Butler asked how this addresses alternative energy resources.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that the use of solar panels is a viable option.

Council Member Smith noted that DOT has a compressed natural gas filling station at Bradley Street.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that she believes it is a fast-filling station since it uses a regular gas pump.

Mr. White said the City is looking into the use of compressed natural gas.

#### Budget Meeting

Council Member Clough requested moving the scheduled budget meeting to another date as he will be unavailable.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that she would like to keep it as a work session and have all Council members present.

Council discusses possible dates and decides to hold the budget meeting November 10, 2008.

#### Cosgrove-Iroquois Avenue Sewer Improvement Project

Council Member Butler asked if all the issues raised by residents in that area have been resolved.

Mr. Hauk said that roots were the culprit for two back-up issues and told Council that nothing is currently pending.

Council Member Butler also noted that he was told that someone has cut a path from Summit Woods down to Iroquois Avenue.

Mr. Hauk told Council that a corridor has been cleared where the sanitary sewer will be tied in, which happens to be behind property owners lots off Washington Street.

#### Sidewalks

Mayor Graham asked about the status of the new sidewalks on Washington Street.

Mr. Hauk noted there was a very light turnout at the public meeting.

Mayor Graham inquired if the property owners do not sign off on the easements, could they be taken by eminent domain. He added that the City has to move ahead with this project.

Mrs. Corriveau said the City is moving ahead and that children will be bused to school until the sidewalks are installed.

Mayor Graham noted that narrow streets such as Riggs Avenue are the ones that cry out for one regular-sized sidewalk rather than two smaller ones.

Mr. Hauk said that repairing the utilities under the sidewalks is also a focus of their work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Amanda C. Lewis  
Deputy City Clerk